

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE
SECURE PIN ENTRY INTO A SECURITY CHIP

A personal computer furnishes a secure path for a security chip of the personal computer for entry of a personal identification number code (PIN). The path is not sniffable or surreptitiously detectable by software. The security chip is removably mounted on a daughter card rather than hardwired to the motherboard of the personal computer. With proper authorization, an interposer may be inserted between the daughtercard and the motherboard. When the PIN becomes necessary, it need not be entered through a keyboard and transmitted to the daughtercard over a bus where it is capable of surreptitious detection or interception. The PIN is instead entered directly from a keypad into the daughtercard.